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Cap 4

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U. S. D. A.

SS - 37

DECEMBER 12, 1945

WHEN THE CROPS MOVE

When do farmers sell their crops? The percentage of total sales of the 1944 wheat crop by Kansas farmers was as follows: In June 1944 they sold 13 percent of the crop, in July 32, August 10, September 5, October 6, November 4, December 5, January (1945) 5 percent, February 4, March 5, April 4, May 7 percent.

Iowa farmers sold their 1944 corn crop as follows: In October 6 percent, November 8, December 11, January (1945) 12, February 8, March 9, April 8, May 7, June 8, July 7, August 6, and September 10 percent.

MILK PRODUCTION HEAVY BUT BUTTER DOWN

Milk production during November 8.4 billion pounds, about like November last year when late fall production held up unusually well. Production per capita, however, in November was about like early 1930's when Nation's population was some 11 percent smaller. November per capita average slightly under three of last four years. Total milk production for 11 months January-November 114.7 billion pounds, compared with 110.3 billion pounds in like period last year. In important eastern dairy sections fall weather cold and stormy, hay not up to usual quality, and labor scarce, are tending to reduce milk production. Butter production running about 15 percent below last year.

Total milk production during next four months expected to be close to like months year ago. Butter and cheese output probably will be below year ago.

Cold storage stocks of creamery butter October 1 were 192 million pounds (more than half Government owned), compared with 140 million year earlier. Stocks of American cheese 207 million pounds, compared with 165 million pounds year earlier.

25 PERCENT MORE PULLETS ON FARMS

Hens laid 2,958 million eggs in November, 1 percent under November last year but 56 percent above 10-year November average (1934-43). Rate of lay during November was 7.57 eggs per hen, a record high, compared with 7.43 eggs per hen last year and 5.83 average. Total egg production during first 11 months this year 51,807 million eggs, 5 percent under like period last year but 37 percent above average.

Number *layers* in farm flocks during November 391 million, 3 percent below previous November but 22 percent above average. Total number of potential layers on farms December 1 (hens and pullets of laying age plus young pullets) was 2 percent more than year ago and 10 percent above 5-year average (1939-43). Increases were 5 percent in West, 3 percent in Northeast, 2 percent in West Central and 1 percent in South.

Number of *young pullets*, not of laying age, on farms December 1 — 100 million, about 25 percent more than year ago and 3 percent above 5-year average. Northeastern States show 57 percent increase; ranges down to 15 percent increase in West. The percentage increase in total laying flock this winter will be greater than last year but less than 5-year average increase; on December 1, 20 percent of potential layers were pullets not of laying age to be added to laying flock this winter, compared with 16 percent non-laying pullets year ago and 21 percent for the 5-year average.

Average *price* received by farmers for eggs in mid-November 47 cents per dozen, compared with 43 cents year ago and 32 cents for the 10-year average.

Average price received for *live turkeys* by farmers in mid-November 33 cents a pound, compared with 33.8 cents year ago and 19.6 cents for 10-year average.

MEAT ON THE HOOF

Total October slaughter of *cattle* under Federal inspection 1.3 million head, presumably the peak month for this season, 16 percent larger than September and 5 percent over record slaughter in October last year. Calf slaughter, which increased greatly after July, was 7 percent less in October than record a year previous.

Total cattle and calf slaughter in first 10 months this year 6 percent less than like period last year, including a large slaughter in non-Federal plants. Total slaughter for 1945 may run a million head over last year's record of 33.7 million.

Hog slaughter increased this fall, reaching over 890,000 head a week in first half of November. This, however, was around 27 percent under same period year ago. Pork supply still far short of demand and stocks in storage are small. Hog slaughter in first part of 1946 will increase.

Cattle feeding heavy. Total movement of stocker and feeder cattle into 8

PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE
	OCT. 15 1945	NOV. 15 1945	NOV. 15 1945
Wheat, bu. dol.	1.51	1.53	1.55
Corn, bu. dol.	1.13	1.11	1.12
Peanuts, lb. dol.	8.06	8.30	8.40
Cotton, lb. ct.	22.30	22.52	21.70
Potatoes, bu. dol.	1.26	1.31	1.28
Hogs, 100 lb. dol.	14.10	14.20	12.70
Beef cattle, 100 lb. . . dol.	11.40	11.40	9.48
Veal calves, 100 lb. . . dol.	13.40	13.40	11.80
Lambs, 100 lb. dol.	12.60	12.80	10.30
Butterfat, lb. ct.	50.2	50.3	¹ 48.9
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb. . dol.	3.30	3.35	¹ 3.08
Chickens, live, lb. . . . ct.	24.3	23.9	20.0
Eggs, doz. ct.	42.6	47.1	¹ 47.0

¹Adjusted for seasonal variation.

Corn Belt States in October 669,000 head, 27 percent over year ago. Previous record shipment was 611,000 head in 1940. For 4 months July-October shipments of stockers and feeders into Corn Belt 1,315,000 head, compared with 1,234,000 head in same months last year. Big increase (31 percent) in the 5 Eastern Corn Belt States. Three Western C.B. States had 3 percent fewer feeders. Shipments of feeder lambs into 8 Corn Belt States in October were 6 percent more than year ago and for July-October were 13 percent greater. However, 25 to 35 percent fewer lambs will be fed this year in wheat fields of Western Kansas and fewer also in the whole Southwest because of poor wheat pastures.

FATS AND OILS STILL SHORT

Production of lard and rendered pork fat in 1946 tentatively forecast 2.4 billion pounds, 300 million more than 1945 output but 800 million under last year's record. Lard exports in 1945 around 600 to 650 million pounds; probably will be smaller next year; annual exports 1935-40 averaged 172 million pounds. Large quantity of lard was shipped under lend-lease to Soviet Union during the war, with a peak of 294 million pounds in 1944. Lard exports to Soviet Union during January-August 1945 totaled 105.2 million pounds, compared with 294 million pounds in like period last year. Lard exports to the rest of Continental Europe in first eight months 1945 were 135 million pounds, compared with 10 million year previous. Lard exports to United Kingdom same period 146 million pounds, compared with 394 million pounds year previous.

Butter production in 1946 may be slightly larger than 1945 estimate of 1,720 million pounds. In 1945 around 30 million pounds of butter have been exported, about 25 million pounds going under lend-lease to Russian Army.

More soap fats expected in 1946, from larger hog slaughter and imports of Philippine copra (but coconut oil and copra from Ceylon and South Sea Islands will fall under the 200 million pounds imported this year and last). Total imports of coconut oil and copra, in terms of oil, probably will not be half as large as the 1937-41 average of 700 million pounds. Military takings of oil for 1945 total around 300 million pounds, in terms of fat, out of a total soap production of about 2,100 million pounds.

CITRUS CROPS AMPLE

Total orange production in 1945-46 indicated 107

million boxes, including first estimate for California Valencias. This crop would be only 1 percent under last season's record of 109 million boxes but 46 percent above 10-year average (1934-43). Total early and mid-season oranges estimated 48.6 million boxes, 3 percent above last season and 40 percent above average. Prospective Valencia crop 58.7 million boxes, 4 percent under last season but 51 percent above average. Record grapefruit crop estimated 63 million boxes, including first estimate of California grapefruit other than Desert Valleys. This would be 21 percent above last season and 70 percent above average.

Florida tangerines estimated 4 million boxes, same as last season and 44 percent above average.

California lemons estimated 13.9 million boxes, 10 percent above last season and 23 percent above average.

NUMBER FARM WORKERS UP SLIGHTLY

Number of workers employed on farms November 1 was 10,747,000, about 60,000 more than year ago and largest for the month since 1942. Number of hired workers 2,569,000, compared with 2,522,000 year ago. Number of farm family workers 8,178,000, down less than usual from preceding month and about the same as November 1 last year.

Wage rates paid for picking 100 pounds of seed cotton averaged \$1.93, about like year ago but more than three times the pre-war average. Custom rate for combining wheat in North Dakota \$3.65 per acre this year, compared with \$1.80 in 1938.

FARM INCOME

Total income received by farmers from the sale of their products during October 2,534 million dollars, compared with 2,460 million dollars in October last year. These figures include 114 million dollars of Government payments this October and 33 million dollars Government payments year ago. Total farm income for 10 months January-October 17,435 million dollars, compared with 17,035 million dollars in like period last year. These figures include 719 million dollars of Government payments this year and 692 million dollars Government payments last year.

CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE		
INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	NOV. 1945
Prices received by farmers . .	1910-14 = 100	205
Prices paid by farmers, interest and taxes	1910-14 = 100	175
Parity ratio	1910-14 = 100	117
Wholesale prices of food . .	1910-14 = 100	166
Retail prices of food	1910-14 = 100	¹ 180
Farm wage rates	1910-14 = 100	¹ 355
Weekly factory earnings . . .	1910-14 = 100	² 365
RATIOS	LONG-TIME NOV. — AVERAGE	NOV. 1945
Hog-corn ratio, U. S.	12.8	12.8
Butterfat-feed ratio, U. S. . .	26.7	29.1
Milk-feed ratio, U. S.	1.40	1.49
Egg-feed ratio, U. S.	16.9	15.9
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	JAN. -OCT. 1944	JAN. -OCT. 1945
Milk, (Bil. lb.)	101.9	106.4
Eggs, (Bil.)	51.5	48.8
Beef, (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) . . .	5,498	6,055
Lamb & Mutton (Dr. wt., mil. lb.)	725	756
Pork & Lard (Mil. lb.)	10,738	6,270
All meats (Dr. wt., mil. lb.)	17,691	13,738
¹ October figure.		
² Factory pay roll per employed worker adjusted for seasonal variation. September figure.		

For more detailed information, write the Division of Economic Information, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C., or telephone Republic 4142 — Branch 4407.